



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Recycling Web Links of Interest

- 1) Benefits of recycling at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/recycle.htm>
- 2) Recycling informational posters and material at http://waste.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/waste.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=812
- 3) Earth Day information at <http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>
- 4) Earth Day with CVWMA localities at http://www.cvwma.com/education_and_outreach/earth_day.wp

Clean the World Recycles Soap Products

Clean the World is a Florida-based charity that has been set up to reduce illnesses and diseases through the recycling of soap products. Everyday in America, thousands of hotels discard millions of pounds of soap and shampoo. These products often end up in already overflowing landfills and contaminate fragile groundwater systems.

Impoverished people around the world die every day from acute respiratory infection and diarrheal disease because they have no soap. The death toll is staggering. Each year more than five million lives are lost to these diseases with the majority of deaths being among children less than five years old. Studies have shown that simple hand washing substantially reduces the spread of these diseases. Unfortunately, the essential items for proper hand washing are unobtainable for millions of people worldwide.

In an effort to prevent these needless deaths from occurring, Clean the World distributes recycled soap products, along with appropriate educational materials, to impoverished countries worldwide, and to domestic homeless shelters. As the world's first, high volume soap recycler, Clean the World ensures that all bars of soap recycled and distributed are completely safe.

Visit this web site for a listing of partners in this program: <http://www.cleantheworld.org/participating-hotels.asp>

Did You Know?

- Nike announced that it has launched a line of soccer jerseys made from recycled plastics. Each jersey is made from up to eight recycled plastic bottles.
- Medals awarded at the Winter Olympics contained recycled metals from computers and other electronics.
- Dart Container Corp of North Carolina has opened a polystyrene foam recycling facility in Randleman, North Carolina.
- Earth Day is 40 Years Old on April 22, 2010!

Is Recycling Worthwhile?

YES! As reported by the EPA, recycling, which includes composting, diverted 83 million tons of material away from disposal in 2008, up from 15 million tons in 1980. Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources, and is just the first step in a series of actions that generate a host of financial, environmental, and societal returns. There are several key benefits to recycling:

- 1) Protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace.
- 2) Reduces the need for landfilling and incineration.
- 3) Saves energy and prevents pollution caused by the extraction and processing of virgin materials and the manufacture of products using virgin materials.
- 4) Decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.
- 5) Conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.
- 6) Helps sustain the environment for future generations.

Recycling not only makes sense from an environmental standpoint, but also makes good financial sense. For example, creating aluminum cans from recycled aluminum is far less energy-intensive, and less costly, than mining the raw materials and manufacturing new cans from scratch. Although many states mandate or set recycling goals, recycling remains a local issue—the success and viability of recycling depends on a community's resources and structure. Recycling also creates jobs and provides an additional business tax base benefit for communities.

20% Recycling Rate for Airlines

About 75% of airlines' in-flight waste can be recycled, but only about 20% actually is, according to a new report from www.ResponsibleShopper.org, which calls itself a consumer watchdog Web site.

The Web site, operated by Green America, is out with "What Goes Up Must Go Down: The Sorry State of Recycling in the Airline Industry." Green America ranked airlines from best to worst for recycling: Delta Airlines, Virgin America, Virgin Atlantic, Southwest Airlines, Continental Airlines, Jet Blue, American Airlines, British Airways, Air Tran, United Airlines, and US Airways.

Green America is a non-profit consumer organization that promotes environmental sustainability, social justice and economic justice.

The report is at <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/go/AirlineRecyclingReport/>.

Story from 2-19-10 Waste and Recycling News

Earth Day Celebration with the Flying Squirrels

CVWMA is partnering with the [Richmond Flying Squirrels](#) to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CVWMA, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, as well as promoting the importance of recycling. The celebration is on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:05 pm for **Recycling Night at the Diamond**. Festivities will include: 2,500 hats to be given away, autograph time with players and Nutzy (Baseball team mascot) and R3 (our mascot), music by the [God Fearin' Snake Handlers](#), recycling trivia contest, and much, more!

Businesses and the Environment

The Sustainability Partnership (SP) is an EPA Region 3 initiative to facilitate environmental sustainability at major organizations in the mid-Atlantic region through a collaborative effort. By sharing expertise within programs such as WaterSense, Energy Star and WasteWise, etc., EPA has proven that working with industry, institutions and governments can produce significant results in the reduction of waste generation, natural resource usage, and energy consumption. Such collaborative efforts can reduce environmental footprints and often result in cost savings to the organization as well!

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/spp/index.html> for more information.

Factoid: In the United States, buildings account for:

36 percent of total energy use and 65 percent of electricity consumption, 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, 30 percent of raw materials use, 30 percent of waste output (136 million tons annually), and 12 percent of potable water consumption. (Source: U.S. Green Building Council)

Virginians making a difference for streams and rivers

by Stuart Torbeck, DEQ Central Office

The 2009 figures are in -- Virginians across the state are monitoring local streams and rivers in impressive numbers. In the past year, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality trained 193 Virginians in water quality monitoring and more than 2,500 have attended monitoring outreach events. Virginians are collecting data at 1,331 sites in the state. Also, World Water Monitoring Day was a huge success in the state with DEQ and its monitoring partners distributing nearly 400 monitoring kits to Virginians.

Why do Virginians check the quality of the water in their local streams and rivers? Citizen volunteers are interested in learning about the health of local waters since it impacts their daily lives. Volunteers also want to help identify water bodies that need restoration and share the news with their neighbors and local officials. The time spent collecting water samples and aquatic insects helps determine if a water body is clean or needs additional attention. DEQ can use submitted data in many ways including:

- Developing a cleanup plan to improve the health of a specific water body including streams, rivers and lakes.
- Tracking the effectiveness of actions taken by landowners and local governments to improve water quality.
- Educating land owners about how their actions on land such as applying fertilizer, impact water quality.
- Adding or removing streams and rivers from the national impaired waters list.
- Identifying waters for future DEQ monitoring.

To learn more about our citizen water quality monitoring program, please visit the [DEQ citizen monitoring website](#).

Calendar of Events

April 6 – 8: [2010 Environment Virginia Symposium, VMI](#)

April 15: [Rural Recycling EPA Webinar](#)

April 22: **EARTH DAY!**

May 18-19: [Virginia Recycling Association's annual conference and trade show. Virginia Beach.](#)

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